

Product Description Document

Orlando International Airport TRACON Collaborative Convective Forecast Product – Experimental

Part 1 – Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Descriptions:

The Orlando TRACON forecast product/service will be a collaborative effort by personnel of WFO Melbourne, CWSU Jacksonville and, initially, UPS to produce a forecast of thunderstorm activity within a radius of 75 nautical miles of the center of the Orlando International airport.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The TRACON forecast will be used as a Tactical Decision Aid (TDA) for short-term decision-making designed to improve the efficiency and safety of both incoming, and outgoing, air traffic within the Orlando TRACON area.

3. Audience/Users:

The anticipated direct users and purposes of use are:

Airline dispatchers – for decisions regarding flight fueling

Airline and FAA Air Traffic Managers – for decisions regarding traffic flow into and out of the TRACON area

The Airport Manager – for decisions regarding ground operations

4. Presentation Format:

The product will be issued twice daily; around 1515Z and 1815Z. Each product will consist of 6 color images; each image will depict the one-hour thunderstorm coverage (minimum of 30dBz reflectivity). The color coding will be as follows:

Green – Coverage less than 10%

Yellow – Isolated, 10% - 24%

Orange – Scattered, 25% - 54%

Red – Numerous, 55% - 74%

Purple – Widespread, > 75%

The area of coverage will be the area within a 75 nautical mile radius of the Orlando International Airport (KMCO). The spatial resolution will be 2.5 x 2.5 km. The time resolution will be 1 hour. Valid hours/times for the product issued at 1515Z will be 16-17Z, 17-18Z, 18-19Z, 19-20Z and 20-21Z.

Valid hours/times for the product issued at 1815Z will be 19-20Z, 20-21Z, 21-22Z, 22-23Z and 23-24Z.

The final products will be posted on the following web site:

www.srh.noaa.gov/zjx/TDA.html

Two samples of one-hour images and product legend are attached to this PDD.

5. Feedback Method:

An operational demonstration is planned to begin Monday, June 16, 2008, and run through Friday, September 12, 2008.

A user survey will be posted on the same web site (see above) as the TRACON forecast: http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=mco_tracon

An experimental product assessment will be conducted for a 60-day period ending November 14, 2008.

Changes will be made and suggestions for improvement will be incorporated into the experimental product to begin at a date yet to be determined. A user survey will again be posted on the CWSU web site.

Written comments may be mailed to:

National Weather Service
Aviation Weather Services, OS23
SSMC-2, Room 13342
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Attn: Cynthia Abelman

For more detailed information, contact Cynthia Abelman at 301-713-1726x140.

Part 2. – Technical Description

1. The Collaborative Process:

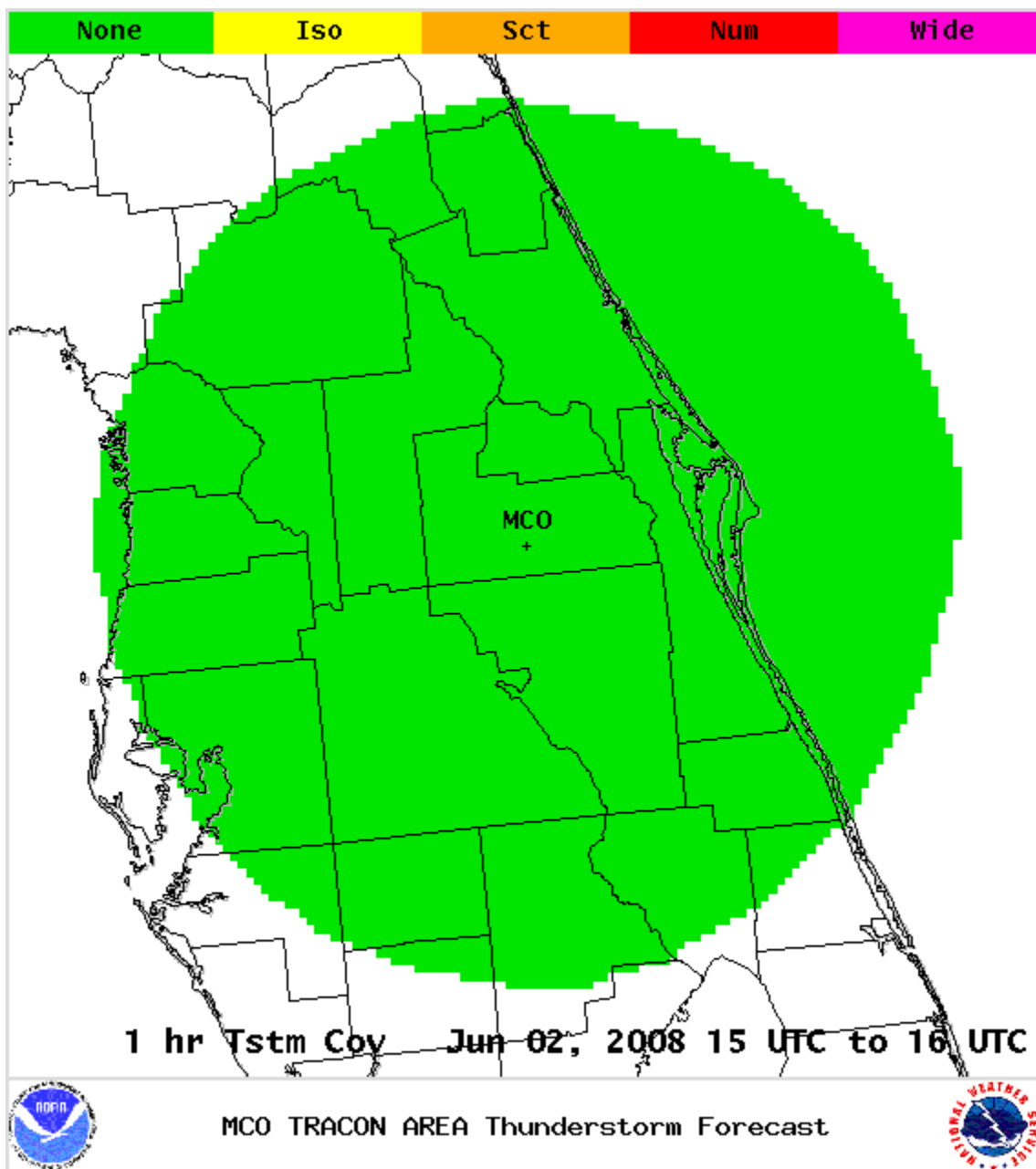
Preparation of the preliminary (pre-collaborative) Orlando TRACON forecast will be the responsibility of CWSU Jacksonville personnel.

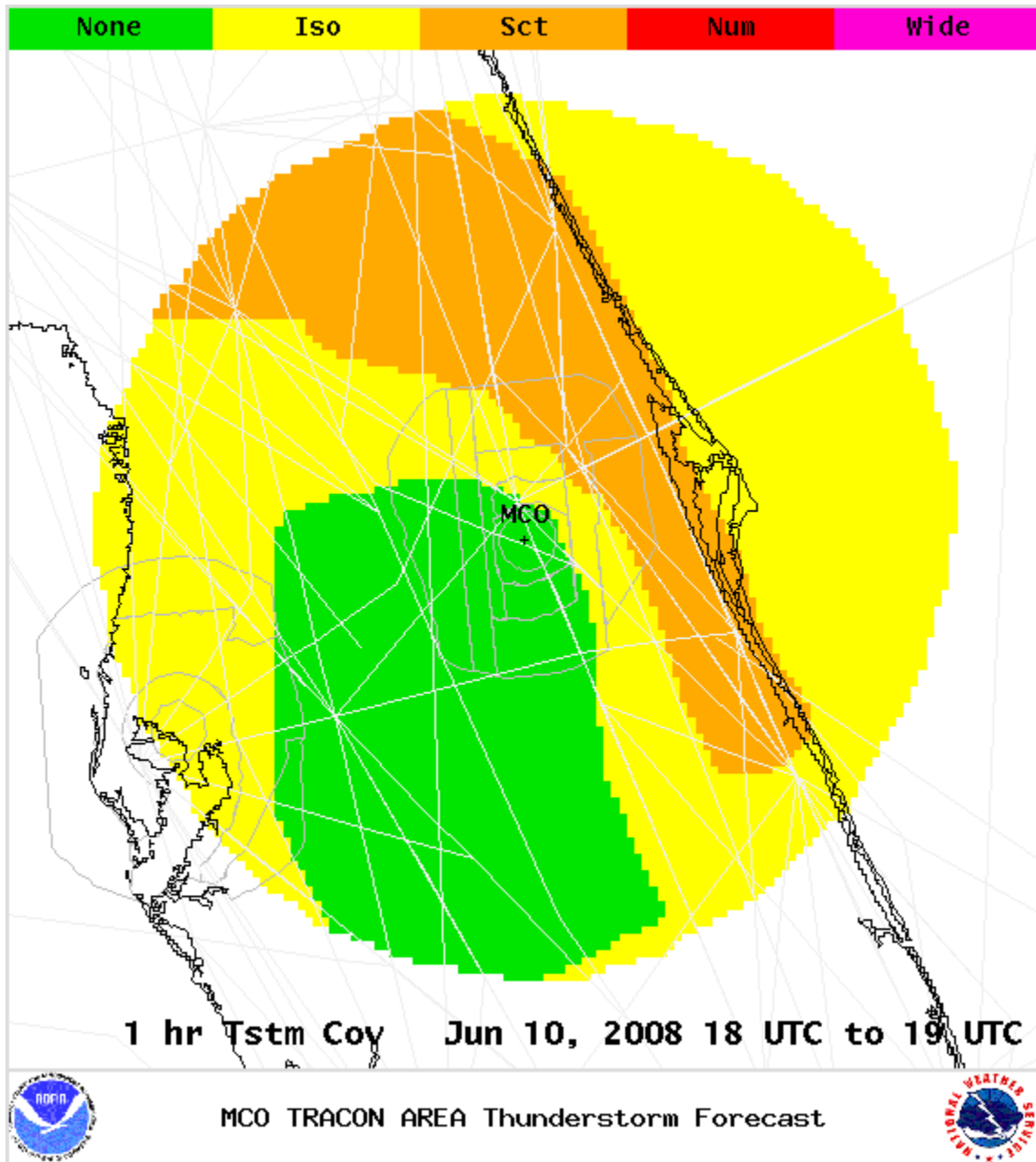
The WFO Melbourne meteorologists will post a preliminary TRACON forecast on a secure collaboration website. The CWSU meteorologist will initiate and conduct the TRACON collaboration with the WFO meteorologist and a representative from UPS. Collaboration will be conducted by GoToMeeting. Upon completion of the collaboration, the WFO meteorologist will make

appropriate changes to the NDFD grids and post the Orlando TRACON forecast to the experimental website.

2. Training:

Training will be conducted locally for both the producers (WFO, CWSU, UPS) and one for the users (other airline personnel and FAA personnel).





Color	Coverage Description	% Coverage	Flow Impact	1st Actions
Green	None (to include very isolated)	< 10%	No Impact	None
Yellow	Isolated	10% - 24%	Low Impact	Initiate Planning
Orange	Scattered	25% - 54%	Moderate Impact	Finalize Planning
Red	Numerous	55% - 74%	High Impact	Activate Plan
Pink	Widespread (to include complete)	> 75%	Extreme Impact	Stress Activated Plan